



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, May 4, 2011 Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

David Reif, Chair
Jason Poitras – absent
Colleen Shapiro
Donna White
Gregory Berthiaume

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Heidi Giancola

Guests

Sen. Jennifer Flanagan, Rep. Jennifer Benson
John Londa, JoAnne McQuaid

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.
 - * Chairman's Report – Senator Jennifer Flanagan and Representative Jennifer Benson were in attendance to discuss the State budget with the School Committee. There was some discussion around circuit breaker funding, which may not be funded at the House level, and the FY12 budget. The Senator reported that Circuit Breaker was not part of the recent resolution. The House cut 1.5 billion dollars out of their budget last week. There was discussion around Department of Public Health services; there is a push for in-home services as well as increased school services. The school committee expressed its frustration at the process in terms of getting information from the State.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - April 6, 2011 Executive Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - April 27, 2011 Executive Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - April 27, 2011 Regular Session Minutes – Tabled to the next meeting.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Check the website frequently and often for the many activities happening as we move toward the end of the school year.
 - Congratulations to our Special Olympics participants. Fundraising efforts were put in place by Lunenburg student athletes to raise funds so all students who wanted to attend could attend without any cost.
 - Project 582 Day of Service took place this past Saturday with 42 volunteers coming out on that day. Thanks to Mr. Londa for his coordination of the volunteer work areas. Volunteers supported several senior citizens with the clean-up of their property. Kudos to the students, volunteers, Mr. Londa, and the custodians in the buildings. Work was also done at Wallis Park.
 - A Community Service Learning conference was held yesterday at Holy Cross; Lunenburg was represented by students, teachers and parents.
 - The Empty Bowl Project is scheduled for May 25. Proceeds will benefit Hurricane Katrina relief.
 - School Improvement Plans will start coming forward over the next couple of school committee meetings. Some start/end times may be changed to accommodate a revised schedule for specialists.

- LHS student Grace Thomas was selected as the state recipient of the Principals' Award. She is now a contender for a national award. Latin exam results included Derek Booth receiving his third perfect score. Grace also received a perfect score.

* Student Report – Heidi Giancola reported the following:

- Elections will be held tomorrow for student office.
- Student Council is getting ready to sell ribbons for a dollar and they will become a paper chain to benefit Relay for Life, which will be held the second weekend in June.
- Student council is planning the senior citizen prom; they will bring food to the senior center and plan a small dance.
- National Honor Society applications are being processed for officers.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is this week. Tomato plants were purchased for all the teachers.
- There was a rally at LHS for all Special Olympians.
- AP testing is taking place at the high school.
- The Italy and Greece trip went well.
- The high school Math Team had a competition this afternoon.

* Public Comment

* New Business

a. Donations

- Hydroponics Project – Mr. Londa and Mrs. McQuaid addressed the committee. Mr. Irving Backman leads this project. Mr. Londa and Mrs. McQuaid went to see this type of project, which encourages people to grow locally and eat locally, at Boston College. Mrs. McQuaid began the presentation by talking about hydroponics, sustainable farming and gardening vertically. Vacant buildings can be used, you don't need the land. The proposed layout has several areas for different types of hydroponics farming. Mrs. McQuaid reviewed several pictures that were taken at the BC location. She talked about the various experiments that could be done on the hydroponics, i.e., PH level, nutrients, math projects, science projects, research. This is a more productive way of gardening without the space and cost associated with regular gardening. Mr. Londa talked about the choice of location for the proposed hydroponics area at TCP. Carpet will have to come out, and the room will need to be rearranged. It will not cost much to set it up, and the cost to operate it would be approximately 50 dollars per month. Mr. Londa talked about a planned lighting retrofit for this room, which would cut the energy use in half. The intent is to use the hydroponics produce in the cafeterias. The donation is valued at approximately \$15,600. Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of the donation. It would be in place for the start of the next school year. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. LHS and TCP staff would be the targeted areas for training. Vote: unanimous.
- Donation of \$288.00 to THMS from the Hannaford Helps Program – Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of the donation and thanked the public and Hannaford Supermarket. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

- b. School Choice – Superintendent Calmes recommended we open school choice in kindergarten to siblings of current school choice students only and allow any students in their senior year to remain at LHS if their family moves during the school year. The superintendent did not recommend openings at any other grade level at this time. Enrollment has remained stable. Ms. White moved and Dr. Berthiaume seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business

- a. Save Our Schools Grant – Mr. Londa reviewed the SOS grant for the benefit of Ms. White and Ms. Shapiro who were not in attendance at the previous meeting. He detailed the items he would recommend we address, if we were to receive the grant funds. One of the items is a card reader device for the high school for four access points. There was discussion around issuing cards for students – possibly students in the STEP program, but definitely for all staff. The cost for cards for all students would be \$3,000. The grant is open until May 25 for Round 1. This is a matching grant. We may be able to use some capital funds toward our match. The grant request would be for two items - \$35,000 to finish replacing high school hardware and to install card access at the high school. There was discussion around the project and where the matching funds would come from. Mr. Londa reported that

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our piece is approximately \$14,000. Funds are projected to come from energy and telephone savings. The payback period is 2.8 years. We would need to have the project complete within two years. Superintendent Calmes recommended passing on this opportunity because of the dire financial straights we are in.

* Public Comment – None.

* Reports

- a. Advisory Committee
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils
- d. PTO
- e. Policy Sub-Committee
- f. Capital Planning Committee
- g. Health Advisory Committee
- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Regional Planning Committee
- j. Rep. Benson's Advisory
- l. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

* Executive Session – At 8:35 p.m. Ms. White moved and Dr. Berthiaume seconded a motion to enter into executive session, not to return to regular session, for the purpose of a discussion related to collective bargaining strategies. Vote: unanimous.

Roll Call:

Dr. Reif – yes

Ms. White – yes

Ms. Shapiro – yes

Dr. Berthiaume – yes

* Adjournment – At 9:02 p.m. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to adjourn regular session. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/24/17/mel